

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Tim Ryan and Congresswoman Betty Sutton announced they have secured federal funding for a number of projects within Summit County in the Fiscal Year 2008 House Appropriations bills.

“I am happy that I was able to secure this funding for the benefit of my constituents,” Sutton said.

“These initiatives will do a great deal of good for our area, and I look forward to working with our local leaders on these and other priorities to continue moving our community forward.”

“As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have secured funding that will increase our quality of life,” said Ryan. **“These funds will go towards good roads, innovative education programs, advanced manufacturing jobs, and for a healthy,**

safe community.”

Sutton and Ryan obtained federal dollars for a number of projects in the funding bills passed by the House in recent weeks – the Energy & Water (E&W) Appropriations Bill and the Labor, Health & Human Service, Education Appropriations (Labor/HHS) Bill. The two lawmakers have also secured funding in the two spending bills to be considered by the House this week – the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Bill and the Transportation, Housing & Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Bill which was passed last night. They were also successful in procuring additional funding in the Defense Appropriations Bill which passed through the full Appropriations Committee today.

Sutton was able to secure \$1.2 million in the E&W Bill for the University of Akron’s (UA) innovative carbon-based fuel cell research, which will allow UA researchers to continue work on technology developed at the University to convert coal into electricity with little or no negative environmental impact.

Sutton and Ryan together secured funding for another UA project - \$200,000 for its STEM2 Education and Career Pathways Initiative in the Labor/HHS Bill. UA will use the funding to help link its faculty from six different colleges to work with primary and secondary educators and industry partners in designing career development programs that will maximize interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

Sutton was able to secure \$150,000 for the Akron Public Schools' Math, Science and Technology Community Learning Center in the Labor/HHS Bill. The funding will be used for a distance learning classroom, technically-enhanced classrooms and science and math laboratories.

Sutton also secured \$300,000 for Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron for construction and renovation of Akron Children's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the Labor/HHS Bill. The funding will be used to expand the Unit by 2,600 square feet and add additional private rooms for parents so they can be with and participate in the care of their newborns.

Sutton secured \$100,000 in funding for Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens' programs for at-risk youth in the CJS Bill. The funding will serve approximately 1,000 students per year, mainly middle-school aged children. Sutton also was able to get \$500,000 included in the THUD Bill for the Summit County Engineer for improvements to access roads leading into the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Ryan secured another \$300,000 for the Akron Chamber of Commerce for their "Regional Economic Strength through Professional Apprenticeship Program" (RESSPAP). The money will go towards RESSPAP's goal of providing internships to Akron youth who want to stay in the local area rather than seek employment out of state.

In addition, Ryan was successful in getting \$50,000 for the Developing Options for Violent Emergencies (DOVE) program. DOVE will use this money in their ongoing efforts to provide specialized healthcare for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and elder abuse or neglect.

\$100,000 secured by Ryan will go towards the East Akron Community House Youth Programs which will use the money to expand after school programs for at risk youth. Another \$250,000 secured by Ryan will go towards widening and improving East Market Street in the City of Akron.

In the Defense Appropriations bill, Sutton secured \$1 million for the National Polymer Innovation Center at the University of Akron. The funding will be used in a joint research partnership between UA and the Department of Defense to address the need for polymer based components currently used in explosives and other volatiles.

Sutton and Ryan together also were successful in getting \$1 million in the Defense Appropriations bill for a joint alternative fuel cell power generation project between UA, Kent State University and Battelle. The project will address the technical barriers within the United States Air Force to deploying fuel efficient power generation technologies.

Ryan was also able to procure a \$1 million investment for Goodyear Tire and their Advanced Reinforced Materials and New Materials Research Project for Aircraft Tires.

The Defense and CJS Appropriations Bills still need to be passed by the full House of Representatives. All House Appropriations bills also require passage in the Senate and signature by the President. Funding in these appropriations bills will be available for Fiscal Year 2008, which begins on October 1, 2007.